

## Les monstres à travers les siècles

When reading French there are several strategies that you should use to uncover meaning. One of them is using words that are similar in French and English (cognates). Another is using your dictionary/glossary at the back of your book and a third technique is using surrounding clues (such as picture or familiar words) to figure out the meaning of an unknown word. Work through the following exercises to uncover the meaning of the text on page 60-61.

**A) Look up the following words before reading the story.**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| construire                        | <u>to build</u>                                      |
| roman                             | <u>a novel</u>                                       |
| changements                       | <u>changes</u>                                       |
| château                           | <u>a castle</u>                                      |
| tourner un film                   | <u>to shoot a movie / <sup>to</sup> film a movie</u> |
| <del>captive</del> <u>captivé</u> | <u>captivated</u>                                    |
| censeurs                          | <u>censors</u>                                       |
| depuis                            | <u>since / for</u>                                   |
| personnage                        | <u>characters</u>                                    |
| animer                            | <u>to animate / to bring to life</u>                 |

Using the story on page# 60-61 in your textbook fill in the blanks to translate the story.

## Monsters throughout the centuries

Monster stories have been popular for a long time. Mary Shelley wrote the famous novel Frankenstein in 1817 at the age of 19. She saw all of the changes caused by the industrial revolution. She decided to warn the public of the necessity to impose limits on science and technology. The main character in her novel created a man in his laboratory. He used electricity contained in the air to animate him. (#bring him to life) In the end the monster escaped and destroyed his inventor.

It's now 1931. The Hollywood studios are looking to exploit the special effects and above all the sound effects. At Universal studio, they chose the novel of Mary Shelley for a new movie. They build a castle and a laboratoire so fantastic that you can see it in many other movies. For the role of the monster, the director/producer chose an English actor who has a terrifying aura but is very kind and peaceful. His name is Boris Karloff. During the last 40 years, people associate Boris Karloff with this role. At the last minute, before they started to make the film, the head makeup artist had an excellent idea: he decided to put little bits/pieces of metal on each side of the monster's neck. That's how the electricity contained in the air continues to animate him. Poor Karloff had to spend hours each day in the make-up room. The film was a huge success in the United States, Canada and in Europe, but in England they considered it too scary and had it banished/banned.

Godzilla was born in Japan in 1954, 9 years after the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The director/film maker Tomoyuki Tanaka created a monster who captivated the whole world. In this time, the nuclear bombs and the explosions in the Pacific Ocean caused a lot of destruction. Because of this, Godzilla, a sort of giant lizard, came out of the earth, furious. He destroyed everything, but finally they succeed in killing him. (But/However) not for very long! Because of the popularity of

the first movie, a second Godzilla came out after a year and inspired 31 movies in all.)

You often see Godzilla, his friends and his enemies in movies around the globe. These movies are almost always based on a hostile reaction to nuclear experiences: The Japanese, for example are very afraid of another atomic bomb!

The message of movies like Frankenstein at Godzilla is very clear: respect nature, do not play with it, because there are destructive monsters who are sleeping and do not want to be awakened!

In 1993, the American filmmaker / director Steven Spielberg, with all of his technical resources of Hollywood, created a movie based on the novel Jurassic Park. In this story, a rich man and his employees make genetic experiments to earn money. Their work is to make dinosaurs. These huge reptiles are not really monsters. Certain ones are ferocious and destructive, but it's their nature.

These tyrannosaunises and velociraptors are monsters of the 90's: the nuclear bomb is now in the past, but cloning, DNA and genetics pose big problems to scientists of the future: are there limits, and what will happen if they are over stepped / ?  
passed /  
exceeded

As we can see, each generation creates their own monsters.